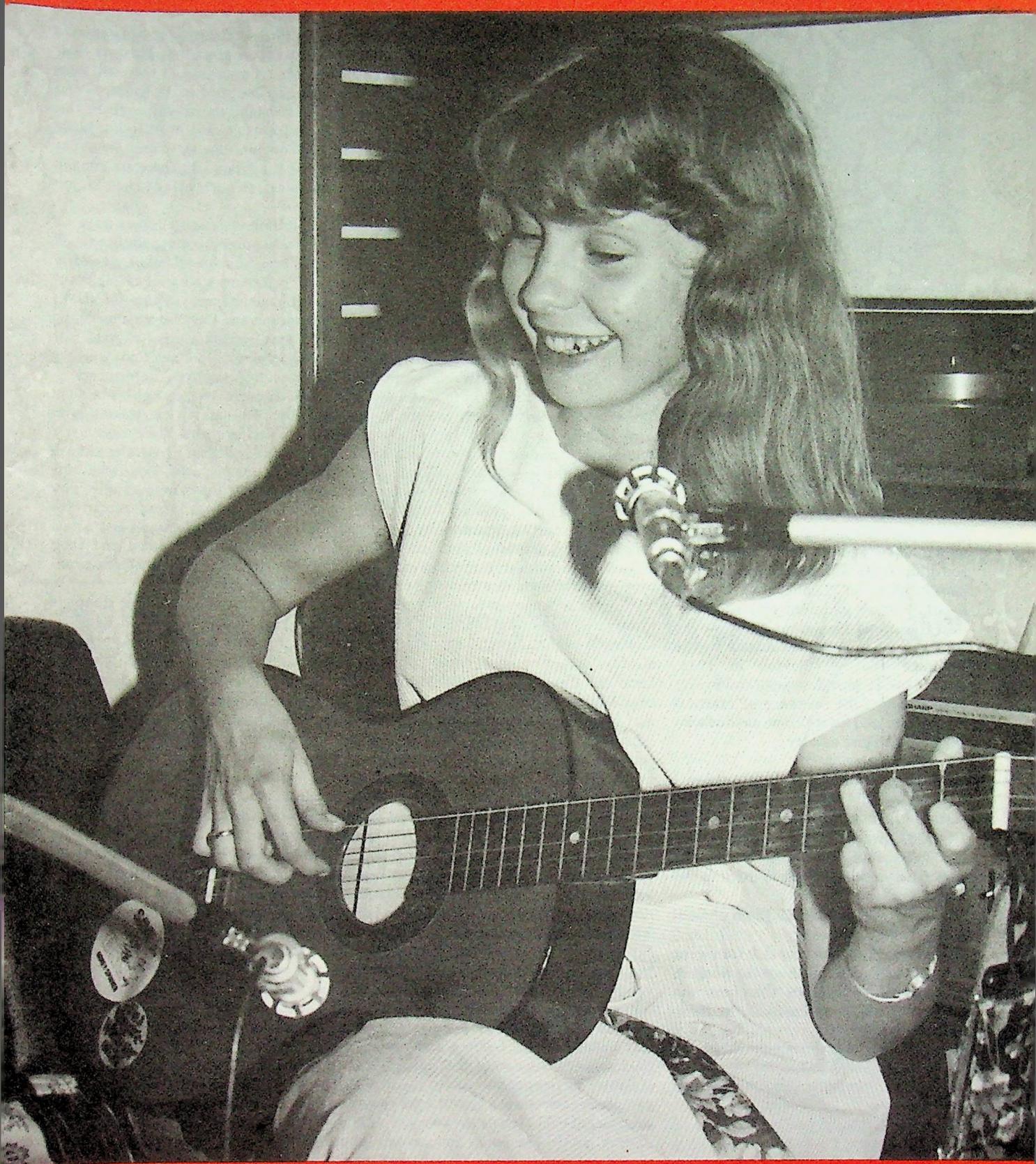


Point Three



The Toc H magazine
August 1984 10p



CHIPPENHAM TAPES

(pages 6-7)

Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House — the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

Cover Picture

Pascale Pelletier of La Flèche records for Chippenham Tapes. (Story in this issue)

Photo: Reg Coates

Personal View

As I write, the miners' strike is entering its fourth month. Government, Coal Board and NUM are at an impasse and the situation is much more dangerous than most of us care to admit.

Government and Coal Board insist on carrying through their policy of large scale investment in the profitable growth areas of a high wage coal industry. They are clear that this means closing down pits too costly to operate, even though they still have mineable coal: these high cost pits push up the average price of British coal and therefore lose us markets. They insist that they understand the social problems this policy raises and are ready to meet them. The Board is examining plans to introduce new industries into areas which depend entirely on pits due to close. Generous redundancy terms are available to older miners and it appears that there are enough takers to avert any compulsory redundancies. No miner, they claim, is to lose his job unless he chooses to, though some will have to move.

Will the NUM Executive move from *their* position of *no* pit closures (save on grounds of exhaustion) and *no* redundancies? We know only what its spokesmen — in particular Mr Scargill — choose to tell us. There has been no national ballot, so clearly the NUM leaders believe that the Coal Board case makes sense to a lot of miners — especially, though not exclusively, to those in less threatened areas. Thus, the NUM's plan to strike in the areas most threatened by pit closures and then use mass picketing to force out reluctant miners in safer areas must have seemed a good strategy. Mr Scargill's increasing stridency suggests that the strategy is not working or not working fast enough. But, as far as we can judge, the NUM Executive is unlikely to turn back.

Why is the strategy not working? Mr Scargill has made no secret of his pride in 'his' 1974 defeat of the government by the use of mass flying pickets who overwhelmed the police at Saltley, thus proving as he said later that '*the people could win against authority by sheer weight of numbers*'. But police and government have also learned the lesson of Saltley and this time were better prepared. That is why the strike leaders are so angry; why the size of mass pickets has grown dramatically; why some pickets are behaving disgracefully; why the police are being abused for successfully resisting attempts by pickets to impose their will by threats and actual violence; why individual working miners have been physically attacked and their homes and families threatened; why attempts are being made to involve other unions; above all, why the police are being accused of being 'para-military'.

What is dangerous is the mounting picket violence: organised efforts to stop men working by force and the threat of force are totally unacceptable in a democratic society. A primary task of the police force is to maintain the peace and that certainly includes protecting us all from mob rule. Of course, they must do so with minimum force but they are being pushed into situations where even minimum force must be considerable. If that disorder is nationally organised, there must be pre-planned national co-ordination of our separate police forces and of police intelligence. Make no mistake, though, about the fact *that*, if we are to maintain a free society, we must ensure — and the police are our agents in this — that we are nowhere overwhelmed by a mob. Wherever — as in some of the 1981 riots and now in this NUM strike — disorder is on a massive scale, there must be an equivalent response from the police.

In these difficult days, we must constantly remind ourselves that a threatening mob representing a sectional interest is attacking the right of others to do as they choose and that the police are defending it. Naturally, there is always the danger that a policeman under attack, or seeing colleagues injured, may lose his head and respond with unnecessary violence. I believe that it happens rarely because post-1974 police riot control training recognises the danger of individual, unco-ordinated police response and concentrates, therefore, on groups, each under the control of an experienced officer. When it does happen, it is essential that the strictest enquiry be launched and offending officers disciplined. But it seems to me humbug to condemn violence 'from either side' without qualification. The police are not initiating violence but reacting against it on behalf of us all.

In the medium and long term, Board and NUM have to negotiate around reasoned cases and I don't underestimate the real concern underlying the miners' claims. But first we must make sure that we are ruled by the ballot, not by the bullet. If Saltley tactics are allowed to succeed, the lesson will not be lost on other minority groups prepared to use force to get their way. This has nothing to do with any of the government's TU legislation: we are talking of the Common Law of England which protects us all. The police and the courts need our full backing in the fight to preserve the rule of law. If we don't give it, and the battle is lost, I fear the consequences for us all.

Welcome

The following new members were registered during May/June:

Barrow-on-Humber (J)
Mrs Marjorie Willis
Bideford (W)
Mrs Margaret J Cole
Miss Margaret A Cole
Bromborough (W)
Pauline Atkinson
Mrs Dilys M Budden
Mrs Joyce A M Wood
Calstock (M)
Ronald P Birch
Cleveland District Branch
Mrs Marie Templeton
Fleet (J)
John P MacCoughlan
Paris (W)
Mrs Jacqueline Butterworth
Pickering (J)
Mrs Barbara K Smith
Peter J Smith
Plympton (W)
Mrs Muriel Turner
Wimborne Tiggers (J) Group
Peter J Collins
Andrew P Gould
Miss Sarah J Johnston
Miss Louise Neal

A warm welcome to 17 new members



Photo: Huddersfield Examiner

Katrina Pollard bounces her way towards £100 in a sponsored trampolining event. She and other members of Almondbury Youth Club are raising funds for Toc H in Huddersfield to take a party of under privileged children to Colsterdale.

A Message from S Yorkshire

By Margaret Parkin

I am the Secretary of the Thurcroft (Rotherham) Toc H Handicapped Club and I am dying to tell you all about our visit to Talbot House, Poperinge on a May weekend.

Fourteen of our members (two in wheelchairs) plus four members from other Branches set off by coach, reaching Dover at midday. We were early because we were worried about getting our wheelchairs on to the ferry. But, with the ready help of port staff, it was easy. We had a smooth, enjoyable crossing and reached our Ostend hotel in the very early evening.

Next morning, we set off for Sanctuary Wood, on the way passing through the very impressive Menin Gate. We found Gilbert Talbot's grave. In this beautifully kept cemetery, we were all deeply moved to see the graves of so many soldiers who gave their lives so that we might live in peace and freedom. We went on to the Museum at Hill 62 where so many of our men fell. Looking round preserved trenches and bunkers, our hearts went out to all the men who had suffered in

the mud and water of wartime Flanders. Back to Ypres for a short visit including a look at its most beautiful cathedral.

At last to the lovely, quaint little town of Poperinge and our long awaited destination - Talbot House. Ivy Swan met us with a warm welcome and showed us round the house. Many of our handicapped members could not manage the steep climb to the Upper Room but those of us who could had a wonderful experience which we shall never forget. It was all we expected - and more. We actually *felt* the tranquil atmosphere. It seemed like a journey back through time and we saw in our mind's eye all the soldiers going there to pray and finding peace in that beautiful chapel. We admired the candlesticks made from old bedsteads and the ancient organ that had been carried round the trenches and, above all, the old carpenters' bench that formed the altar. This Upper Room still breathes peace and we felt at one with God.

But there was so little time. We were just able to walk in the garden - beautiful

and also steeped in history. Then - very reluctantly - we left, all vowing to return and stay in the Old House itself.

The rest was anti-climax, though we greatly enjoyed Sunday in the quaint old town of Brugge. We had a rough Channel crossing home - one of our members spent four hours queueing at the duty free shop on behalf of a succession of friends succumbing to seasickness!

It was a wonderful weekend - marvellous fellowship - one happy family, with everyone giving a helping hand where needed. One of our handicapped members said to me when the trip was over: *'Toc H has given me a new lease of life. I now know I can still get out and about and I've now got something to look forward to instead of being restricted to four walls and this wheelchair.'*

So our message, my friends, is that you really must visit the Upper Room and share what we experienced. It was once just a dream to us but now it is a reality that we shall never stop talking about.

Round and about

Climb every mountain!

Last December we published Tom Millican's fascinating account of his Ben Nevis climb as a member of a group of blind mountaineers. Tom (a blind member of Kendal Branch) went out with these 'Milton Mountaineers' again this year. Accompanied by three guide dogs, they set out on a perfect May climbing day to tackle Snowdon. Tom's climb was sponsored, all proceeds going to the British Retinitis Pigmentation Society. (Retinitis, the cause of Tom's own blindness, is a hereditary eye disease affecting more than 25,000 families in Britain.) Prominent among his sponsors were his own Branch and Alston (Cumbria) Women's Branch. This particularly pleased Tom because Alston — the highest market town in England — is his birthplace.

From the far, far north!

We have just heard from Revd David Monkton ('our man' in the Shetlands). Up there they are proud of their Toc H Lamp and in this connection David writes: *'Toc H meetings as such are not held here very often due to the intense activities of so many organisations . . . in the islands; but we always remember the World Chain of Light and Remembrance Sunday night in a United Service here in Lerwick. The Lamp is also used at three school assemblies a year when over 500 children between the ages of five and 12 share in the Service. It is normally taken in Epiphany (which is very dark here) and the theme is linked with giving service to the community — especially in connection with the many charitable causes that school supports . . .'*

Thank you for the news, David. What about a full account of your Shetland way of life for *Point Three* publication?

Meanwhile, down south . . .!

I have enjoyed reading Bill Beardall's account of the 1984 Family Day of Strode Park and Herne Joint Branch. Each year, this Family Day attracts outside speakers and many visitors (I remember vividly the happy day I spent there a few years ago). It is always strongly supported by other Kent Branches and has become a highlight of the East Kent Toc H year. Many of the Branch members are residents of Strode Park Home for the Disabled and the Family Day is always held in its lovely

grounds. This year, the guests included our Director, the Mayor and Mayoress of Canterbury and Roger Gale (MP for Thanet North).

In his address the Director spoke of changing patterns in Toc H with numbers declining in some Branches but with more and more young people in to share our work and our ideals — often outside the Movement's traditional structures. There were now two strands of life in Toc H and we must work to bring them together.

During the afternoon, everyone enjoyed a happy musical hour presented by the Salvation Army Young People's Singing Company.

A joyous day drew to an end with a Service conducted by Revd Malcolm Perkins.

They never stop!

Rushden Royal (Northants) Women's Branch are as active as ever. They mounted an Easter party for 50 local residents in sheltered accommodation. A couple of weeks later they were again on their 'catering stunt' with a tea party of 60 senior citizens — a full meal, music and a gift for each person present. Within little more than a week they were at it once more — this time holding the draw in their bumper raffle (main prize a portable colour TV set) during a 'coffee and gateaux' evening at Rushden Hall Park. They had more than 22,000 tickets to fold and place in the drum! This event — run jointly with the local branch of the British Diabetic Association — raised £1,075.

In a footnote, our correspondent, Valerie Dent, tells us that the new Mayor of Kettering, Councillor John Poole, is a member of the town's Men's Branch: at his formal induction ceremony, special places were reserved for a number of Toc H friends.

Kent 'Hops'!

Jack Packham has sent us a short account of Gravesend's recent mini-handi — their seventh. This small but active Branch collected helpers and invited 25 handicapped people — many in wheelchairs — to a fun evening. Tea was followed by a disco with spot prizes, games and a floor show. Apart from Toc H members and friends, helpers came from Red Cross (cadets) and the National Sea Training College (trainees). The transport 'fleet' included the Kent Toc H minibus and Red Cross ambulances.

Beryl Hammond, N Devon's District Secretary, writes to pay a warm tribute to Okehampton Women's Branch which has closed after 43 years. It was, says Beryl, 'a wonderful Branch'. Though small in numbers for some time, the members were — and are! — great in heart and could always call on outside help to do many jobs beyond their own resources.

There are two elements in this story that appeal strongly to me. Firstly, though of the four remaining 'stalwarts', three are over 80, they have all vowed to keep going their regular hospital visiting — their main Branch job for many years. Secondly they have all become District members so that they remain in the Family and both N Devon District and Tavistock Men's Branch, say they will 'hold them in their care'.

I cannot do better than repeat Beryl's own words: ' . . . It is a time for thanksgiving for what they have done and for what they are now — still "building bravely" and "disowning discouragement". We feel honoured by their loyalty and warmth of friendship'.

Some anniversaries . . .

Hemel Hempstead Women's Branch invited members and friends in their area to join them in celebrating their 50th birthday in June. They all enjoyed a shared meal and an 'Old Tyme Music Hall' before joining in homegoing prayers . . .

On a warm, sunny April day, Acklam (N Yorks) Women's Branch celebrated 30 years of Branch life. Some 100 members, Builders, and friends from all parts of the Region arrived for the rededication service conducted by Revd Arthur Temple, with founder member Sheila Brass travelling from Derbyshire to take the Ceremony of Light. Hostess Doreen Lynas welcomed everyone to refreshments afterwards and a happy day came to an end with the cutting of a splendid birthday cake and — yes, you've guessed! — lots of talk.

And briefly . . .

Four members of Margate Men's Branch reached the finals of the Thanet inter-Branch quiz when they defeated Whitstable Women's Branch by 71 points to 70 at Whitstable . . .

John Quimby of Ashby de la Zouch Men's Branch reports: 'We were once more given the opportunity to use an empty shop in the town for one week. After advertising for useful items for sale, business commenced. We raised over £500 of which we donated £375 to family purse and the rest to our charity funds'.

'LETTER FROM AMERICA' - 9

by Margaret McGettrick

Home Schools

Education is a major issue over here during the Presidential election campaign. It seems that the system is producing too many children lacking basic reading and writing skills. President Reagan is promoting changes which will extend the school day and bring the school starting age down to four. However, it seems that recent studies have shown that children actually do better if they start school at eight years of age! It is argued that at such an age a child will learn in three months what had taken others three years

to learn. Research has also shown that children who go to school at five become 'peer dependent' and grow up to be 'followers of the crowd'. The child who stays at home longer, however, has a greater sense of self worth and can function better as an individual. Home schools, therefore, are on the increase over here. All that is required is one and a half hours a day following a basic curriculum. So successful are these proving to be that in nine out of ten cases taken to court, the Judges have ruled in favour of allowing the children to continue being educated in this way.

Sean and I were very interested and have sent off for more information. If these findings are correct, it will be interesting to see how sensitive the system is to 'change' and to adapting its methods accordingly. I believe that the phenomenon of 'home schools' is growing in England, too. It would be interesting to hear how someone who has been thus educated has fared. Why not write to the Editor and tell him?

*yours ever
Margaret*

Where's your diary?

Merseyside District will be holding a full day District Conference at the Mornington Road Centre for the disabled, Southport on Saturday, 22 December from 10.30 am to 4 pm.

Inclusive cost for the day will be £5 – to include coffee and lunch.

All enquiries to: Miss L Bottomley, 36 Oakleigh Grove, Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside L63 7QT

Hard hats and hay nets are urgently needed for the new riding stables at Ifield Hall – the special centre for the handicapped that now forms part of the Crawley Toc H complex.



Photo: George Crane (Crawley News)



Sheffield Hatters TAG Group took the Plus Bus to Lincoln to help Sue Whight publicise the opportunities for young people to involve themselves in Sue's projects. (See Sue's article in our July issue.)



Gladys Anderson, a long stay patient in Sevenoaks Hospital sits comfortably in a special, flexible chair presented by Dunton Green Branch.

Photo: Sevenoaks Chronicle

CHIPPENHAM TAPES FELLOWSHIP

(A Tapes Service for Handicapped People)

by Reginald C Coates

In 1975, three members of Chippenham Branch who were interested in making tape recordings, helped to form Chippenham and District Tapes for the Handicapped. Today it produces about 130 copies of each of seven monthly programmes, together with a weekly talking newspaper for its blind listeners. As a caring society, Toc H has a long history of hospital broadcasting and tape recordings: this tradition is being continued by Chippenham members.

The service provides a window on the local world for the audience, who range from the physically handicapped to older people who are housebound and, of course, the blind. Many live alone, and for them the twice monthly visit by the visitor who acts as 'postman' is a welcome event. Others live in grouped accommodation for the elderly or in Greathouse Leonard Cheshire Foundation Home.

We need many helpers to operate a service of this size. We deliver tapes not only in Chippenham, but also in Calne, Corsham, Malmesbury and Trowbridge. Ideally one visitor per listener is required, so that he or she can spend the time necessary to become a true friend, and as part of the job, provide feedback to the tapes producers.

The tape recording team generally divides into groups to make and edit the programmes. These are recorded on open reel or cassette tapes, edited on to open reel tapes, and finally transferred to a cassette 'master', which is copied on one of three high speed copiers at a rate of over 30 an hour.

The service costs many hundreds of pounds a year, and funds are raised by special events such as concerts, by gifts from churches and local voluntary organisations and by talks etc. A publicity film is also used. Listeners in need are provided with a mains cassette recorder: groups and churches often wish to donate such a machine to someone they think will benefit. To provide a continuous service of seven programmes a month requires 21 cassette tapes per listener and these must be replaced from time to time. The group has gradually built up its recording equipment during its eight years of operation, to replace the private equipment of the pioneers which was quickly worn out. The high speed copiers (costing about £1,300 each)

require regular maintenance and repair because of the frequent use.

etc. Radio Wiltshire has also given publicity to the work.

The programmes produced are of great variety in the attempt to cater for all tastes. There are two religious programmes ('Friendship House' providing talks and interviews of religious interest, hymns etc, and 'Monthly Service' from a rota of Churches in the area). 'Clearway' brings record requests, and 'Music House' a variety of locally recorded music, or music performed by artists known to the audience. Every effort is made to meet customer requests for items by artists known to them, and listeners such as the Toc H members in Greathouse often have the extra pleasure of attending a recording session at their own home, possibly using the piano provided under the Warden Manor Scheme. Music may be provided by a school choir or the Treorchy Male Voice Choir, a singer of local folk songs or a friend from Chippenham's twin town. 'Interest', 'Miscellany' and 'Magazine' are based on interviews, talks or longer items such as Gilbert and Sullivan Operas.

Since the choice of programme material depends on requests, feedback is essential, but this is difficult to obtain. As an experiment, a monthly quiz was launched on one tape and to increase the interest, a prize offered each month in the form of a book token. About four entries were received each month, all of a high standard, but with near perfect results from a blind member of Chippenham Branch. Oddly, when the quiz was suspended for a short period, letters of protest came not from the regular contestants but from listeners who had shown no apparent interest!

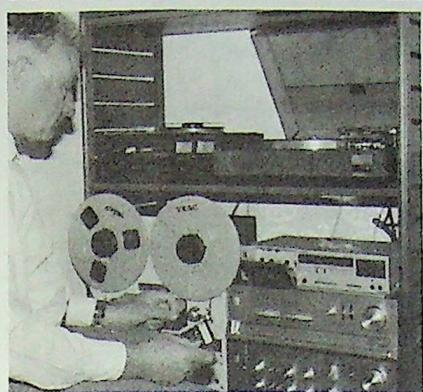
The producers must always be careful to recognise a change in needs. Many handicapped people derive enjoyment from television and radio, and the main value of the tapes to them might be the regular visits they bring. Most response comes from blind listeners who particularly enjoy local news and descriptions of the area they cannot see, though, in recent years, of course, local radio has met some of these needs.

The tapes service has always enjoyed the support of the local press, which carries a monthly report of the programmes. Thus, a constant rapport is maintained with the community and this provides a flow of offers to record new listeners, donations

Most Branches in the Chippenham District are involved with the service. The original three members of Chippenham Branch make four of the monthly programmes. Branch members in Chippenham and Corsham deliver some of the programmes, and some of the listeners are also members of Chippenham, Corsham and Greathouse Cheshire Home Branches. The tapes are a chance to share some of the local events we enjoy with others who cannot participate. We can enjoy good music or a church service together, or pit our wits in a quiz. Interviews with National figures such as Leonard Cheshire, Toc H staff, actors like the late Arthur Lowe, John Noakes, Anthony Hopkins and Dora Bryan and local personalities, have given a rich flavour to programmes which can be produced and delivered only by a large and faithful team. In many ways the Tapes Service is an ideal Toc H job. Older members, who have their ears to the ground, can be useful in identifying needs, and many Branches have knowledge of the disabled and housebound in their areas. The personal act of delivering and collecting tapes once a fortnight to what is often a lonely person must surely be very close to the Toc H heart, and this act of service can be carried out by young or old, man or woman.

Members of a young Toc H group in Chippenham (The Triffids) have faithfully continued their tape distribution work. This shows that such a Service can attract youthful help.

The making of the tape programmes is a challenge to find listeners' needs and to keep them in touch with events in their area. Older people tend to enjoy music not found in the pop charts, and there are numbers of people who will perform for the tapes. Occasionally we have a breath of fresh air from our French friends. Toc H members often have a good tale to tell, which might well be of interest to disabled people unable to leave their homes to attend meetings. Poetry reading, local history, interviews with interesting friends etc, are all within the capabilities of most members, remembering always that the editing out of unwanted material by transferring the original recording to another machine, is an extremely simple process.



The production of a Talking Newspaper for blind listeners was the last of the programmes introduced by Chippenham Tapes. This service is special in that it is weekly, and the newspaper is delivered and returned by freepost. The team responsible must have a special commitment. In Chippenham two weekly newspapers, which appear on Thursdays and Fridays, are read directly on to a cassette 'master' on the day of publication. Thirty copies of each are made, and by Friday evening they are in

50 YEARS AGO!



The *Toc H Journal* for August 1934 opened with the reprint of what the editor called an 'unconventional sermon' by Tubby on the subject of holidays. Tubby seemed to be able to draw lessons from anything! Here are the closing paragraphs of what he had to say.—Editor

'The Claytons leave London'

Forty years back it was within our family a time of deep resolve, to which our high spirits were attuned by a home made calendar, which we cut off day after day throughout the month of July. The station 'bus, doomed to convey the household to Paddington in time to catch the 9.15 pm train, was ordered well ahead; the order was received and annotated, but none the less, upon the night itself, it was premised by the whole junior household that the 'bus would not come, or if it came the horse or pair would fall down within the shafts outside the front door; or the train itself would fail to secure a sufficiently vivacious engine, or else the engine driver would be paralysed by the omission of sufficient fuel. Each of these fears in turn possessed our infant minds, and all of them together overwhelmed us. Then on the night itself, we were assembled by my eldest sister and marched off down the road in resolute array. The rule was that no child worth calling Clayton might look

the post for their blind listeners. For a number of years, until the recent breakdown of the high speed copier, one family devotedly carried out all this work, not even taking annual holidays!

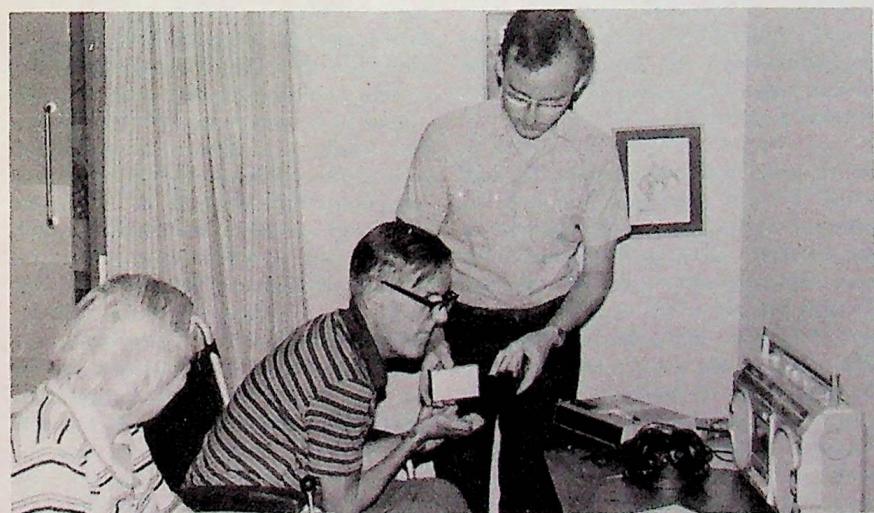
The introduction of a tapes service can be rewarding where there is a real need, and in most towns there are lonely housebound people. Why not let your Branch help to provide a window on their local world?

back over its own or anyone else's shoulder until a certain spot in the long road was reached. Then, opposite that spot, we faced about with a rapidity never achieved by any military evolution — the brave old Duke of York himself would have been put to shame. Meanwhile, our eyes were glued upon the corner of the road around which the 'bus in due time would appear, if no one had forgotten the arrangement. Year after year the station 'bus arrived unfailingly. We boarded it, convinced, like Captain Dowler, that the most cherished items of our luggage were neither on top nor down below. These fears at rest, we rolled towards the station. The train itself backed in, here was our carriage labelled by some kind fairy as reserved for no one but the Clayton family. Disposed herein, our fears about the engine were falsified by the convincing proof of its capacities. Contentment and conviction ushered in a sense that bedtime was now overdue. The children knew no more until the morning, when at Carmarthen Junction engines were interchanged and a cold sponge exuded moisture on our hands and foreheads, clearing away the night, if not the soot. From this stage onwards, the progress of the train became more lingering and inconsequential; it hesitated, halted and was still at many wayside stations. The sun, meanwhile, having been called very much earlier, decided to get up with a red face. Haverfordwest was then the final point attainable by train. Here breakfast was awaiting us en prince. It seemed, after all, that father had forgotten nothing. Thereafter we drove on across Welsh hills till at last we reached the Bay of Fishguard, and then our house halfway up the steep hill which led towards the heart of Goodwick village. Here, on arrival, the whole junior household was promptly put to bed, and not allowed to go and test the beach until the afternoon.

This element of discipline, not lightly disregarded in our family, had, as we recognised, a regrettable degree of wisdom behind its apparent harshness.

'"The Sleep named Death"

I sometimes think, now I am growing old, that the great father God behaves like this when He condemns His children to a period of that short sleep named Death, in order that their spirits and their sight may not be overweary from the world before they test the loveliness of heaven. We shall know better how to obey His orders and thus be ready to awake with lightened eyes and playful energies ere we address ourselves to new expanses.'



Jonah and 'The Wail'

by Tim Richards

I did a useful bit of Bible study the other day. It's not a thing I'm prone to do, but a thought struck me in bed one morning and since my wife keeps the Good Book under her pillow, I was able to act promptly, ensuring for once that I laid no paving in the direction of the other place.

I was pondering on the behaviour at a Branch meeting of one of our older members who was returning after an illness. During his absence of a few months, we had made considerable progress with a community project. However, after a progress report, our elder statesman prophesied financial disaster, warned us about the kind of people who might occupy the home we were trying to set up, and went on to impugn the motives of some professional people who had freely given help. We have some pretty solid backing for the scheme, so I was not very worried about the future, but I was brought to wonder how such a jaundiced view of humanity fitted in with membership of Toc H. I confess that I silently cheered when our Treasurer reminded this chap about our tradition of fairmindedness. Anyway, we got through our business in due course and, after the Ceremony of Light, as the member and his wife were leaving, he grinned at me and said: *'I'll be back again to keep you on your toes'*. I replied, without much conviction, that I hoped he would.

You have probably asked by now what all this has got to do with the Bible. If you haven't, here comes the answer, anyway.

I was trying to understand our friend's curmudgeonly attitude when the phrase, 'a regular Jonah', popped into my mind. This caused me to turn my thoughts to the original bearer of that name. Swallowed by a whale — everybody knows that — but what did the expression mean? Did it refer to the unfortunate side effects on Jonah's fellow travellers of his deafness to some rather insistent demands from his Maker? Or didn't I remember that sometime in his career he was a regular prophet of doom?

The Wider Family

Australia

Raoul Nieper, Honorary Commissioner, Queensland, sends this photograph of the small Chapel in Brisbane Branch Rooms — dedicated to the memory of Padre Hunt in 1961. The Lamp of Maintenance (The Christopher Lamp) is that presented to Brisbane Branch in 1929, from the Perth Festival.



Well, if I'd had to come downstairs for a Bible, I'd probably never have found out but, as it was, I was relieved to find that the Book of Guess Who occupied only a couple of pages. Still, there's quite a story packed in there so, for those of you whose memories are as dim as mine, here's the gist of it.

Jonah received a message from the Lord (how is not revealed), requiring his presence at Nineveh for the purpose of admonishing the wicked populace. Our man was not too keen on this and decided to take off in the opposite direction on a vessel bound for Tarshish. The Lord was displeased at this backsliding and gave the ship a pretty rough passage. The mariners, being a shrewd, or superstitious lot, depending on your point of view, decided to cast lots to see who was the object of all this

The wooden cross with the double transom has an interesting history, revealed when Raoul dismantled it some time ago. On the inside of the back pedestal was written:

'This cross was made by me, Joseph Frank Biggs, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, from a beam from St Mary's Church, and a beam from an old mansion of Wulfshall, at one time the residence of Jane Seymour, mother of Edward VI.'

Jane Seymour died in 1537, so that the timbers must be about 450 years old. The Cross will be used with the Christopher Lamp in the World Chain of Light in 1985.

A mystery surrounds the arrival of this cross in Australia. If anyone can solve this mystery or knows anything of the maker, John Biggs, or can tell us any more of this interesting story, we would so like to hear. Write to us and we will pass on all information.

Fleur Farrington

unwelcome attention. The finger pointed at Jonah who, rather sportingly, held his hands up and offered to take an early bath. Perhaps responding to this disarming frankness, the matelots continued their efforts to make port with a full complement. In spite of their efforts, it became clear that Jonah's Lord had made up his mind so, rather reluctantly, the sailors took him up on his kind offer. As soon as he hit the water, the elements came back into line, thereby causing a significant shift in the religious allegiances of the observers.

Whether our man in the water was equally impressed is not recorded, but we are told that the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and that he was in its belly for three days and nights. What was that? A great fish! Not necessarily a whale, then. Does Eric van

Talbot House, Poperinge



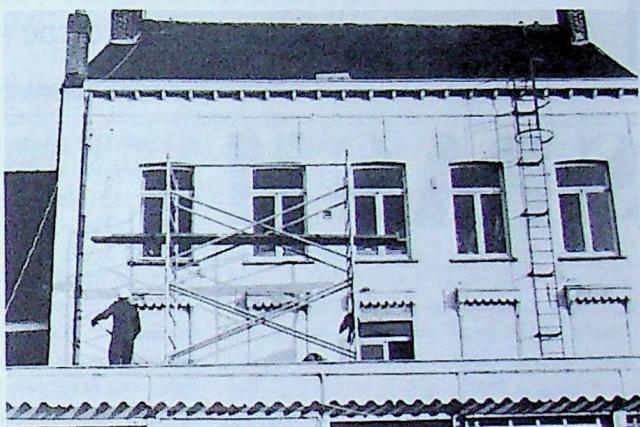
Erecting scaffolding at the front



Staff Sergeant briefing his men on the next job



Re-laying the patio



Painting at the back

Our pictures show members of the Junior Leaders Regiment of the Army tackling the overdue work of decorating the house. Ivy Swan tells us that despite appalling weather, they completed the painting of both back and front. During the last year the Royal Ordnance Corps from Antwerp have completely re-laid the garden.

These few words most inadequately express the thanks of Toc H and the Talbot House Association for all the work and loving care which both Army units have given and are giving to the house. Ivy tells us that the spirit of the house has been manifest amongst the soldiers taking part and the news of this is spreading through the forces in Belgium and BAOR.

Keith Rea

Daniken know about this? Would he claim that the fish was in fact a submersible of some advanced or even extra-terrestrial civilisation? Whatever it was, Jonah certainly seemed to be impressed, for he spent most of his time inside acknowledging the Lord's superiority and promising to try harder in future. Presumably, the Lord was prepared to accept his assurance for he shortly found himself being regurgitated on to dry land.

At this point, it occurred to me that perhaps Jonah was a bit of a mystic who described his own inner battles in terms of tempests and fishes' bellies. Not that it detracts from the story either way, and the next bit certainly seems to be literal.

The Lord sent Jonah another message couched in similar terms and this time,

lesson learned, he did the decent thing, and to great effect. No sooner had he told the Ninevites that they had only 40 days left, than they were all decked out in sackcloth and fasting like mad. I don't know if he had to expand upon his theme, but he certainly got his message across. God saw that the wicked had repented and decided to put away the fireworks for another day.

I suppose the Ninevites were pretty pleased but our prophet certainly was not. He felt that his credibility had been undermined and dropped a hint that he thought that God had welshed on the deal. He went off in high dudgeon and set himself up in a position from which he could overlook the city in safety in case the Lord changed his mind and let loose with the thunderbolts after all. God was pretty tolerant this time, and prepared

a gourd which shaded Jonah during his vigil. However, next day, the Lord let a worm consume the gourd, causing our hero to lament its brevity of existence.

God pointed out to him that since Jonah was sorry for a mere gourd which he had had no hand in creating, how much more responsible he should feel for a city of over six score thousand inhabitants. Jonah's reaction is not mentioned but it would appear that he got the message for his story ends without record of any further chastisement.

And our Jonah? Well, after I had read the story, I was musing again about his parting shot. Then it occurred to me that, in his deadpan way, he was trying to wind us all up in order to get us to re-examine some of our assumptions. Come back, Jonah! All is understood.

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INSURANCE BROKERS TO TOC H

Please Note Falmouth

You may have noticed in our back page 'small ads' that Falmouth Branch are advertising holiday accommodation. This enterprising Branch (besides being involved in a joint exercise with Carr-Gomm) have sold their old, tatty meeting house and a holiday chalet they operated with other Branches. With the proceeds, they have bought a very pleasant house in which they meet and which also makes it possible to offer reasonably priced self catering holidays to Toc H members or to families sponsored by Toc H members. Basic details are in our 'small ads' section on p16 of the July issue but the Branch will be delighted to send you a full description of the house — with terms and conditions — if you send a SAE to:

Toc H
12 Lister Street
Falmouth
Cornwall

SPASM

by John Minter

The idea of running a minibus for the benefit of the local community was a new one for us in Seaford. This was not just something that was needed, but something which would involve Toc H more closely with the community of Seaford and its surrounding districts.

A member had suggested this as a Silver Jubilee project, and after much discussion, the idea was adopted at our April 1977 AGM. The target was to raise £5,000 in one year, and the Treasurer, a mathematician of considerable repute, pointed out that this meant raising £100 every week and would call for a lot of hard work and prayer.

As a start, 60 local organisations, ranging from Youth Groups to OAP Clubs, and including most of the local charitable organisations, were approached in May, asking if they would support it. In addition, 5,000 leaflets were printed and distributed under the acronym 'SPASM' — Special Project to Acquire a Seaford Minibus. The response was encouraging and donations started coming in. It was suggested that a bookstall be set up somewhere in the town at weekends, and

a local DIY firm kindly offered us the free use of a brick built store in the centre of the town, just off the High Street. This was an immediate success, and as well as books and records, all sorts of small articles were soon on sale. The bookshop also provided a focal point in Seaford for Toc H, and many useful contacts were made. The shop was first open on Saturday mornings, but later it opened on Thursday mornings and all day Saturdays.

Radio Brighton (now Radio Sussex) was also approached, and agreed to our having a regular monthly 'spot' on their 'Good Morning' programme — usually about 10.30 am. This was particularly useful, and after almost every broadcast someone would telephone and offer help of some sort. In fact, after one programme, the local Ford distributors rang to offer us a Minibus at a special discount of 12½%.

In August, two ladies connected with a local organisation offered to arrange a garden party at their very attractive home. This provided us with our first large donation. (£93).

Collecting newspapers and magazines for salvage was another popular idea. Very soon we organised a monthly collection from houses all over the town. At this time, we had no storage space available, and the local Lions Club offered to store

the paper in their garage, weigh it, and add it to their own collection, accounting to us for our share.

While all this was going on, the Branch were busy organising Coffee Mornings, Jumble Sales, etc, and our usual two annual events — a Spring Fair and a Christmas Fair. In addition, all sorts of jobs — gardening, repairs, decorating, transport, etc were being done by members and all donations received went to the Minibus Fund.

In March 1978, we made tentative enquiries about a Minibus, and a Ford Transit 12 seater was chosen. The firm which offered us the discount of 12½% was approached, and quoted two month's delivery, so although we were still a little way short of our target, the order was placed, as an act of faith. At about this time it was decided to hold an Auction, and an appeal was sent out in selected areas in the town for items to sell. Here again the response was tremendous, and a local Chartered Auctioneer offered to conduct the Auction free of charge. The result was the splendid sum of over £600. We were in sight of our target.

May 31, 1978 was an exciting day when four members travelled to Eastbourne to take delivery of the bus. A 'phone-in' to Radio Brighton was arranged prior to the journey. The dealers had kindly supplied

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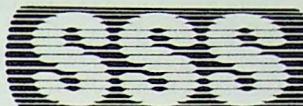
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Why not telephone them NOW on 0245-380465, they will be pleased to help.



Social Service Supplies
Stepfield, Witham, Essex CM8 3BY Telephone 0245 380465.

us with a tank full of petrol free, a cheque for £4,100.01p was handed over, and the bus was ours.

We were rather concerned at the fact that we had nowhere to garage the Minibus, but the local Baptist Church came to our rescue and offered us parking space on their forecourt. We had been scouring the town for somewhere to build a garage, without success, until we received an offer of a piece of ground adjacent to the local Scout Headquarters, again, free of charge. An iron-framed asbestos clad garage was ordered, and prior to its delivery a local firm was employed to put down a concrete base and run-in. The garage came as a DIY kit, and was erected by Branch members. The idea was that in appreciation of the Scouts' kindness in offering us a piece of their land, the garage would be partitioned off into two self contained units, so that the Minibus could be garaged in one half, and the Scouts had the use of the other. In our simple ignorance the legal complexities of this operation did not occur to us, but we were soon informed of the situation by the legal eagles at our respective HQs and the subsequent negotiations and eventual production of an agreement were protracted and expensive. However, this was a very minor pinprick in an otherwise immensely successful story.

11 June (the day after taking delivery) and the bus was soon averaging over 1,000 miles a month and being used regularly by numerous local organisations.

No set charge is made for the use of the bus, but users are expected to pay for the cost of the petrol and are asked to add a donation over and above this. The system works well, and in addition, many of the organisations who use the bus on a regular basis arrange fund raising events and donate the proceeds to us. In this way, a Depreciation Fund was sent up, assisted by the Branch's own fund raising projects. This enabled the first vehicle to be replaced in April 1983, having covered 57,000 miles in just under five years. The

new Minibus went on the road on 14 April 1983, and has now covered over 12,000 miles.

Much of the credit for this success story must go to the dedicated team of volunteer drivers, both inside and outside the Branch, without whom the project would not be possible. We are also overwhelmingly in the debt of the local community whose support throughout was one of the most heart warming features of the effort. And of course it has been, and still is, a bonus for us. The bright yellow Minibus, with its boldly printed 'TOC H SEAFORD' on its back and side, has brought our presence to the notice of many, many people who would not otherwise know of our existence.



Open Forum

Membership Records

I hear that it has been suggested that young Toc H groups should be affiliated only to Wendover thus eliminating Branches and Districts. I fully understand that most Branch meetings are not their 'cup of tea', and recognise that mobility these days is desirable for their age group, but surely this is going to extend the 'them' and 'us' syndrome. We 'oldies' were young once (even if it's hard to imagine it at times) and would like to get to know and to help, if we can, any of our young people in our District. Could they not become District members and be transferred from one District Secretary to another if they moved on? In this way we could also keep them in touch with anything special going on in our neck of the woods, perhaps get their help and hopefully get to know one another.

Betty Whyatt
Margate

Note: So far as I'm aware there's no suggestion that 'young Toc H groups should be affiliated only to Wendover'. I'm quite certain that it is important that they should take a full part in District life. What has been floated is that all of us should be registered simply as individual members of the Movement, rather than as members of a particular Branch. What Branch or Group each of us links up with is up to us but we are first and foremost members of the Family of Toc H and a single national membership register might help to emphasise that fact.

KPB
Director

What is a member?

Following the letter in your May issue, at a recent Branch meeting we opened this up for discussion by our members and quite a wide variety of points were raised.

However, the conclusions were unanimous. As a Branch we would welcome anyone whether Christian or not to share in our fellowship. But it would not be possible to afford them membership unless they could accept the Christian basis of our Movement.

We would sincerely hope that our spirit of friendship and our 'thoughts, words and deeds' would lead them to share with us our Christian faith. But we would in no way 'preach' at them.

As a Branch we hold as central to our meetings The Ceremony of Light and our time of prayer, and we would in no way compromise on what we believe to be Toc H essentials.

Some members were however a

little concerned that there were some in the Toc H Movement who were reluctant to stand firm to our Christian basis.

Stan Cowdrey
Portsmouth

Point Three

It's two o'clock in the morning and once again I have frittered away the day (Saturday). I didn't have tea till 9 o'clock; it was 10 pm before it was cleared away; I spent an hour in a fruitless search for a letter; say an hour or two for writing a diary and accounts and a quick look at the paper. Finally at about 1.30 am I picked up the Toc H magazine.

Twice now I have had the feeling, after reading *Point Three*, that I have been engaged in a fruitless search. At the end of the day, I turn to *Point Three* for some comfort but in this month's issue it is not to be found. There are variations on the theme 'We had a mini-handi', a few variations on the 'Four Points of the Compass' and not even the 'Bordon Letter' for comfort.

What I am trying to say is that I like to be told not merely that *I must*, but also that *I can*: 'love widely, build bravely, think fairly and witness humbly'.

Is it too much to expect of the issues of *Point Three* that they should be comforting as well as challenging?

Timothy Lineham
Edinburgh

Note: 'I'm sorry we're not "comforting as well as challenging". It is not easy to be all things to all men particularly when – as with *Point Three* – we can print only what you send us! Timothy does not say which issue he searched for comfort in the early hours but I guess from the date of his letter that he had our June issue. If I am right, something of what he is seeking is to be found, I would have thought, on pp2, 10, 12-13 and 14. What do you think?' – Editor

The Toc H Experience

In Megan John's article a 'Toc H Experience' (May issue) she drew attention to the work of a group researching into religious experience of young people.

For two years I have been collaborating in this group, and about 20 Toc H volunteers are involved. My particular aim is, by having a series of unfamiliar conversations over three years, with the same group of people, to trace how their attitudes are changed by the

experience they chose to have on a Toc H project.

The title of the research is '*Religion in Volunteers aged from 16-19*'. It is too early to report in detail, but by next year we hope to have some useful material. One unexpected result is that many of those who are helping me have become more interested in Toc H. At this age, young volunteers are much more 'committed' in what they undertake to do than in what they profess to believe. Often the words seem unconnected with the experience and the values they are beginning to uphold for their way of life. This is how the 3rd and 4th Points of Toc H emerge as relevant to them as they develop their experience of friendship and service. At this stage I can claim no more than that.

Bob Knight
Winchester

Note: See also 'A Hundred Letters' by John Mitchell, elsewhere in this issue.

— Editor

Toc H Housing Association

The decision of the CEC to interest Toc H in the Housing Association Movement, late as it is, could not have come at a more appropriate time ...

I see the involvement of Toc H in the Housing Movement, not in setting up a new Association, but in furthering the work of the existing Associations. We need people to serve on committees, help with the tenants' problems and the relationship between the Association and the tenant. There is still a lot of hostility and mistrust on the part of tenants of their Association. Apathy too: we cannot get tenant participation on joint committees we have set up. The need is for personal contact with tenants. Housing officers cannot find the time to spend with tenants, assisting them with their problems on housing benefit, budgeting and communicating with the various statutory bodies. Many tenants already have a probation officer or a social worker but there is tremendous scope for voluntary workers who do not represent the face of an official body, who can by long steady interest in a tenant gradually win his or her confidence. This is exactly the job for Toc H, but the resistance of the paid staff of the Housing Associations will also have to be broken down, because they do not altogether see that there is any room for voluntary workers in the job they are doing. I know because they have told me so on occasions.

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

In 1985 the National Federation is having its Golden Jubilee and it is marking this by a special effort to draw more voluntary support to the Housing Association Movement. This is the place for Toc H – not on the bureaucratic side – as the tenants see it. Why don't the members of the CEC in their various areas organise seminars for our members to learn about housing problems? The National Federation can supply information. Speakers from local Housing Associations would gladly attend to talk about their work, the needs of the ethnic community who feel themselves outside the housing association activities (we are a white man's organisation they think, not concerned with them), the needs of one parent families, the elderly, the disabled, and many more . . .

Eric Smith
Nottingham

Note: These are extracts only from a very long letter following the Toc H Housing Association article in our June issue. I have omitted Eric's very full account of the difficulties and problems involved in

setting up a Housing Association. These have been passed on to those working on the scheme who assure me that they are well aware of them and have taken them fully into account in their planning.

– Editor

Proud to serve in Toc H!

My father served in the infantry in France during WWI and was severely wounded in one of the Somme battles, being rescued unconscious from 'No man's land' I was told. I grew up between the two Great Wars and joined Toc H in the early 60s. and it is partly because of my background that I have a particular sympathy with the Movement. It seems to me that Toc H pioneered certain developments which are well established today, eg ecumenism, some bridging of the class divisions and practical Christian service in one's local community.

At an earlier time of special need, Charles Wesley took a bold line, opened people's eyes and instituted much needed changes. It may be that Methodism will one day be absorbed into the united body of the Church having helped to enrich

and inspire it and the same thing could happen to Toc H.

The idea should not unduly grieve us who have acted in the pioneering spirit of Christ.

Dick Crump
Carshalton

Brightening Your Lamp

I wonder if a Toc H Lamp might be more, rather than less, noticeable if unpolished? I am reminded of the story of a party of people visiting a Norfolk Church. On the altar rails they were puzzled to see one highly polished brass knob and the other dark with age. 'Why isn't that one polished?' enquired one visitor. A look of horror came over the verger's face. 'Oh! we can't polish that one, that's the holy knob', said he. 'How on earth can a knob be holy?' asked the visitor. 'Well, you see,' explained the verger, 'many, many years ago we had a confirmation here and the Bishop was somewhat short sighted and he confirmed that one!'

Irene G M Lockwood
Leicester



The most popular activity of Much Wenlock's new Toc H Group is their monthly senior citizens' lunch club. Numbers have risen steadily from 16 to 36 and each month old friendships are being cemented and new ones made. The price of a meal is held at 30p and transport is available when necessary. A recent popular innovation is a ten minute talk after lunch. This lively new Toc H Group have succeeded in opening up one more 'friendship circle'.



Melton Mowbray's Toc H flag day raised £300 to help provide equipment for the county's Talking Newspaper for the Blind.



SCANS (South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Children's Holiday Committee) were given a civic reception by the Mayor of Crewe and Nantwich on the occasion of their 21st birthday reunion. During the evening, they received three cheques to help forward their work. (See story in 'Round and About' in our May issue.)

Photo: Melton Mowbray Times

Photo: Crewe Chronicle

'A HUNDRED LETTERS'

by John Mitchell

During the autumn of 1983, John, a member of staff currently working in the West Midlands and South Wales Region, wrote to 100 members or participants in Toc H activities. Half the letters went to members in traditional Branches — most of them over 50 years of age — and half to younger volunteers involved in projects or youth groups. All were asked the same two questions:

- a. Why are you involved in Toc H?
- b. How has Toc H changed you (if it has)?

To date, John has received 75 replies: more are promised. In this and the next five issues of Point Three, we shall carry John's reports on the replies he has received. Each of these reports will cover a single major theme.

— Editor

Introduction

The main purpose of this exercise was to check whether the experience of Toc H that older members have had, over the years, in traditional Branches and Marks is, at root, the same experience that younger people are now getting through the so-called 'new expressions' of Toc H. There were two ways this task could have been approached. A formal questionnaire could have been drawn up and sent to all, with a set series of questions, from which some statistical facts could have been drawn. Alternatively (and this was the method adopted) correspondents could have been asked two, very wide, questions, and invited to respond in their own words, at their own length.

Because the second pattern was chosen, we do not have any form of statistical breakdown of the replies, so nothing can be 'proved' by numbers. What we do have is a wide variety of comments in response to the two questions, which do not fit into anything but the very broadest categories.

What has emerged, however, is a clear confirmation that the experience of young people today echoes, remarkably, the experiences of their predecessors in Toc H. In addition, we have a series of profoundly beautiful statements about their views on Toc H, and their excitement about it, from many of the younger people questioned. In the article below, and in those to follow, an attempt will be made to show some of the similarities between the generations and their experiences, and also to give a flavour of the richness of what has been written by the younger folk whose newness to Toc H in no way diminishes their understanding of it, and their clear love for it.

1. 'Welcome, Acceptance, Fellowship'

'When I was first introduced to Toc H' says a volunteer in her late 20s, *'I came across an attitude to people that I had seldom met before in my everyday life. The warmth of a residential weekend (my first was at Dor Knap) and the interest that everyone was prepared to show in complete strangers, and the trust, completely overwhelmed me . . .'* A pre-war member writes: *'I am involved in Toc H because of the friendly atmosphere of our meetings and the genuine comradeship of members . . .'* From another member of many years standing: *'I suppose it was the mixture that I missed, after five years war service — that was the immediate attraction, plus the warm welcome given to me by all the members of the Branch'.*

One Branch member puts it: *'My short answer is fellowship, plus the joy of helping, listening and mixing with other members of the community'*, while another says: *'Friendship with and to ALL . . . But without any long sessions of "let-me-know-only-the-best-about-you, or I'm-not-interested" nonsense'*.

A young man from a north country Action Group writes: *'Trust was the greatest; giving trust doesn't always cost anything, and to receive trust from a "complete stranger" is really morale boosting. (I place complete stranger in inverted commas because all Toc H members belong to the same family). Being able to be so open in conversation, friendship and togetherness'*.

These themes of welcome, of 'acceptance for oneself', and the theme of 'Family' run through many replies. A parish priest writes: *'I am involved secondly because of the fellowship, and this more especially so since returning to the Branch in my changed occupational status. It is rewarding to go to a meeting and not to have to take a "lead" but act and react as an ordinary member (if there is such a thing) with my opinions challenged for better or worse. The Family of Toc H is a true one'*. A girl, 40 years younger, says *'Now I regard Toc H as a bit like a vastly extended family — both enjoying it and having a certain loyalty to it and its values'*, and another writes: *'I suppose it is the Christian fellowship that makes the weekends so friendly. Everyone is interested in you as a person, and prepared to be open'*.

A member of 30 years standing writes: *'Involvement began the moment I entered the room. I was made to feel immediately welcome, as part of a family, albeit a rather large family and on first impressions entirely male, and a little insular'*.

Finally, a student links the 'acceptance' with its corollary of 'growth' in an amazing tribute to the Movement: *'In Toc H there seems to be a great willingness to spend time with each individual and, in an atmosphere of warmth, openness and trust, to unfold, gradually, the petals of each flower . . .'*

Again and again, the theme of 'Welcome, Acceptance, Fellowship' is repeated!

(Next month's theme is 'The Mixture')

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In 1983

Thomas M Carter (Norwich)
Cyril J Davies (Shavington)
Walter Goodman (Chalfonts)
Frederick W Grimsey (Clacton-on-Sea)
Stanley A Hann (Wantage)
Thomas Hurley (Weston Rhyn)
Benn D Jones (Chalfonts)
E R 'Nellie' Keeler (Ashford & Kennington)
Alfred J Osteritter (Wantage)
Hugh K Walker (Strathclyde District)

In January

Norman Milburn (Paignton)

In March

Anne S Bevins (Ulverston)
Edith L McGregor (Wallasey)

In April

Edward Opie (Troon)

In May

Lillian J Barclay (Iford & Seven Kings)
Rowland Garnett (Gloucester)
Philip Hancock (Ashford)
Goronwy Parry-Jones (Criccieth)
David J Owen (Portmadoc)
Robert G Rolph (Horton Kirby)
Anthony G Waterfield (Southdown District)

In June

Ivan F Griffin (Thurrock)
Donal Wildman (Strode Park & Herne)

Leslie Wood MBE died in Oxford in March, following a heart attack. Colin Stevenson writes: '... He came to us in 1932 via the Oxford and Bermondsey Club where he was a helper at the same time as Gordon Turvey. He was assistant to Barclay Baron in the Journal office until 1937 when he was appointed Manchester Area Secretary, where he remained until the outbreak of war. After the war he became Secretary to Oxfordshire's Rural Community Council, retiring in 1979...'

Ruby Relf writes: 'Hope Venables died at Eastbourne in March. First a member at Edgbaston in Birmingham and later at Eastbourne, her deep faith, serenity and sense of humour remained through years of suffering. Suffering which in recent years involved the amputation of both legs and the loss of sight. No one who had the privilege of knowing Hope will ever forget her. She was an inspiration to many. The number of people who came to her funeral on a Monday morning

included her Toc H friends, her Church, blind friends with their minibuses, including a guide dog, and many others, were a tribute to a wonderful woman.'

John Pentland (Jack) Lindsey (Newton Abbot Men's Branch) died in April, aged 66. The town's Methodist minister, preaching at Jack's Thanksgiving Service, said: 'There is, of course, sadness at parting but for Christians that can never be the main note of a service like this. We gather to give thanks for a life well lived and for all we see of God's unending love in Jesus. As we think of Jack Lindsey there is so much for which to give thanks. I think of the impact he made on me when I first visited him shortly after coming to Newton Abbot. I was immediately struck by his quiet warm welcome, his innate courtesy, his gift of making someone feel wanted and at home. I have never met anyone in whom this gift was more apparent than Jack Lindsay... Jack's secret was simple. He had something very unusual - he was more concerned to hear what the other person was saying than with what he himself wanted to say. This ties in with his concern for people. In his Post Office work, he was known as someone who cared. "See Jack Lindsay - he'll sort it out". With arthritis care, using his car for others, with Toc H, and in the Church, he cared. He was a good husband and a good father. He was, as I know clearly a good friend to very many... We give thanks for Jack Lindsay. We give thanks for the love that holds him and keeps him.'

Wilf Youngs, an outspoken and extrovert Yorkshireman (and proud of it!) died in April. An old friend and former staff colleague writes: 'During some of the time he worked with ICI, Wilf lived in the Newcastle Mark, becoming Hon Warden. Altogether he served the Movement for almost 50 years, some 20 of them as a member of staff in a variety of roles. In the 1950s and 60s, he worked effectively in our clubs in Germany and built up a considerable reputation there. In 1967 he became Deputy Warden of our young seafarers' hostel in Southampton and there he remained until his retirement four years ago. He built up an excellent relationship there - firm but fair - with the young seafarers, the engineer cadets and the staff and the Management Committee which he served as secretary. A first rate administrator, Wilf was also a man of great energy and a variety of interests. He devised and made Christmas decorations, designed and printed notices

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.

-Editor

of all kinds and was a strong and active supporter of Missions for Seamen, Watch Ashore and many other local bodies. He entertained in old people's homes and gave much practical help to Toc H, both locally and nationally. (I remember particularly his many years of faithful backroom service to groups using our Lakeland centre at Weirside.) All those he met remember his kindness and generosity and his happy knack of 'getting on' with all sorts of people from every walk of life. We are all very grateful for having known him and will always remember him with affection.

HB

Phyllis Rose ('Cormy') McCormack, formerly of Harrow and then Wealdstone Branch, died peacefully in May at the age of 77 after much suffering bravely borne. She first became a member in 1936.

Philip Hancock, a founder member (1931) of Ashford (Kent) Men's Branch, died in May at the age of 90. He remained a member of his Branch through all those 53 years, holding most executive offices.

Ashby de la Zouch Men's Branch report the death of Tom Collier at the age of 82. A member since 1934, Tom had served as Branch Pilot, as Vice-Chairman of the DEC and as a Central Councillor. He was deeply concerned with a variety of local activities, ranging from his service on the Ashby Hospitals Amenities Committee to his work with Darby and Joan and Evergreen clubs. From the age of three he had been involved with the Moira Centenary Sunday School and for many years was Superintendent. He was a Methodist lay preacher for 65 years. An old friend writes: '... Tom was regarded in Ashby Branch as one of the finest Christian men who passed their way. Every seat available was occupied in the Chapel at his funeral - a fitting tribute to this remarkable friend of so many'.

Medway and Sheppey's District Members' Secretary writes to tell us of the death of a former Gillingham (Kent) member - latterly N Devon District - Leslie Jonson. He tells us that Leslie - a fine Toc H leader in his Gillingham days - was saddened after his retirement to Devon by having no Branch close enough to join. Leslie's death, he says, 'has taken a very valued member from our Toc H fellowship'.

We give thanks for their lives

IT'S NEW!



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(Illustration shows actual size)

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2. Clear print
3. Usual Toc H addresses and information
4. 'Sunday' start to the week
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